

School Improvement Parent Notification Requirement

As required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Tennessee must annually identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI)/priority, targeted support and improvement (TSI), and additional targeted support and improvement (ATSI). Under section 1111(d)(1)(A), federal law also requires states to notify all districts and in turn all districts to notify all schools that are identified for students and student groups that are consistently underperforming based on the state's accountability indicators, which are:

- Student achievement
- Student growth
- English learner proficiency assessment (ELPA)
- Chronically out of school
- Ready graduate (high school only)
- Graduation rate (high school only)

Federal law also requires districts and schools to partner with stakeholders – including school leaders, teachers, parents, and community leaders – to develop and implement improvement plans for their school to improve student outcomes based on these accountability indicators.

All parent notifications should be sent out by Sept. 1 and a copy of the letter uploaded in the school improvement plan to “Upload Documents.”

School Designation Overview

- Comprehensive Support & Improvement
 - CSI schools are those in the bottom five percent of their school pool including 2017-18 data and all Priority schools plus all schools in the Achievement School District regardless of performance. CSI schools are identified every three years.
- Priority Schools
 - Priority schools are identified every three years and includes those that in 2018 fell in the bottom five percent of their school pool (i.e., K8 or HS) **not** including 2017-18 data. This designation also identifies those schools with graduation rates less than 67 percent.
- Targeted Support & Improvement
 - TSI schools exhibit low student group performance by falling in the bottom five percent for any given student group (i.e. Black/Hispanic/Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, English Learners, or Students with Disabilities) or any given racial or ethnic group (i.e., Hispanic/Latino, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, Asian, and White). TSI schools are identified annually.
- Additional Targeted Support & Improvement:
 - Schools identified for ATSI are Focus schools in which any student group success rate is less than or equal to the highest success rate of any Priority school in their school pool **and** where they do not earn a score of 3 or 4 for each indicator for which that student group is eligible. ATSI schools are identified every three years (starting in 2021).

By focusing on the performance of each individual student group within a school across all indicators, Tennessee is better able to address equity and support schools and students.



In order to help districts and schools fulfill this requirement, the department has provided the sample parent letter below that can be tailored to local context.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Each year the Tennessee Department of Education examines schools' performance across several different indicators to provide an overall look at how schools are serving the needs of all students.

For 2019-20, the department of education included the following indicators in its analysis of school accountability:

- Student achievement
- Student growth
- English learner proficiency exam (ELPA)
- Chronic absenteeism
- Ready graduate (high school only)
- Graduation rate (high school only)

More information on each of these indicators and the data used to define them can be found in the [2019 Accountability Protocol](#). Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the department is required to use the school accountability results to identify those schools with the lowest performance and the lowest performance across student groups (e.g., individual racial/ethnic student groups, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, and English learners). These schools will receive additional supports from the department.

We are writing to inform you that *[School name]* is identified for *[Designation]* as required by ESSA and the U.S. Department of Education. *[Insert designation criteria]*

[School name- ATSI or TSI only] is identified for the following student groups:

- *[List student group(s) and reason why]*

Our school is working hard with the district and the Tennessee Department of Education to increase student performance by *[List specific activities/programs the school and district are implementing to address student performance.]* We encourage you to help by participating in the development and implementation of our school improvement plan and/or *[list other parent activities specific to the district and/or school.]*

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Position]